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SECOND COUNCIL MEETING PUTS V CORPS FAMILY READINESS GROUPS IN TOUCH WITH LEADERSHIP

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BABENHAUSEN, Germany -- Family Readiness Groups serving units throughout V Corps have an in with the top dogs through the V Corps Family Readiness Advisory Council.



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Col. Gary Langford, commander of V Corps' 41st Field Artillery Brigade, addresses the second V Corps Family Readiness Advisory Council meeting February 8 in Babenhausen, Germany. Senior representatives from units across the corps met to discuss issues that have surfaced through unit family readiness group channels to facilitate interaction between senior leadership and subordinate FRGs.

After being established late last year, the council conducted its second meeting February 8, hosted here by the corps' 41st Field Artillery Brigade.

The purpose of the council, developed by V Corps senior family readiness leaders, is to serve as

the link between corps leadership and subordinate unit family readiness groups.

Representatives from FRGs from units throughout V Corps gathered to discuss issues that have come up through the units and to pool the expertise and resources available to them.

The council also serves as a forum for input from FRGs to the corps senior leadership, which those senior officials can use to better assist corps Soldiers and families.

The meeting comes on the heels of the announcement that several corps units will deploy within the year. The council will take the lessons learned from previous deployments and develop more efficient ways to support deploying and redeploying Soldiers, civilian employees, and their family members.

The advisory council isn't the only tool to assist FRGs. The Department of the Army has developed the Family Readiness Support Assistant program, creating a new position to serve as a liaison between units and FRGs. This new resource available to the FRGs was a topic of discussion at the council meeting. Units were advised about when they can expect their new FRSAs to arrive and when training will be available for those new individuals.

"The position prevents FRG leader burnout," said Melissa Speer, the U.S. Army Europe FRSA program manager. "It serves as another body there for the family members, the FRG leader and the rear detachment commander -- the link between all of them."

Speer said the council meetings serve as a bridge between the FRSAs and the FRGs.

"These are great," said Speer of the VFRAC meetings. "It serves as an information base; lets me know what's going on in the different communities and what I can do to build the program to better assist the FRGs."

The advisory council meetings are conducted quarterly.

